

Belize Acute Febrile Illness (AFI) Study

On-screen graphic: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Logo, U.S. Department of Health and Human Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

On-screen text: Belize

Dr. Russell Manzanero, National Epidemiologist, Belize Ministry of Health: You know in the region we have malaria; we have vector borne diseases and so many others. The AFI project through Baylor College of Medicine with the possibility of identifying even more pathogens, respiratory, vector-borne, gastro. I think it came at an opportune time.

Kristy Murray, DVM, PhD, Professor and Vice-Chair for Research, Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital: We're actually one of several groups overseeing acute febrile illness surveillance. We're focused on Belize and then transitioning to starting a new surveillance site in El Salvador. We have regular meetings and then all the data is coming in together. And then of course having CDC which gives us this bigger umbrella.

Emily Zielinski Gutierrez, DrPH, Director, CDC Central America Region: The important thing about AFI surveillance is that it gives local health authorities an excellent data set to work with.

Dr. Manzanero: If we have this kind of information, we can definitely make some evidence-based policy changes at a national level.

Dr. Murray: Without having this kind of data in this kind of infrastructure diseases are going to be transmitted because we don't know what they are. We don't know how to control them and by having this data of knowing exactly what we're dealing with, it really empowers Public Health to be able to go in and do something to control it.

On-screen text: To learn more about CDC's global health work, please visit www.cdc.gov/globalhealth. Follow @CDCGlobal on social media: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Flickr.